

The 20 biggest power players in New York City real estate

WE BUILD THIS CITY

THE MOST IMPORTANT ARCHITECTS, DEVELOPERS & DESIGNERS REINVENTING REAL ESTATE IN GOTHAM RIGHT NOW

By David Caplan, Jason Chen, Zachary Kussin, Heidi Mitchell, Andrew Sessa and David Kaufman

With a staggering \$10.1 billion in sales for the first quarter of this year — a 21 percent increase over 2014 — NYC’s residential real estate business is a global empire to be reckoned with. As are the visionaries leading its way. From a hit developer with a love for eco-focused restorations to a maverick running his brokerage like a tech startup, we celebrate the vanguard redefining real estate in Gotham. As diverse as they are dazzling, Alexa’s New Real Estate Royalty prove that talent and imagination remain the industry’s most important assets.



SOO K. CHAN, 53

Founding principal and design director, SCDA Architects

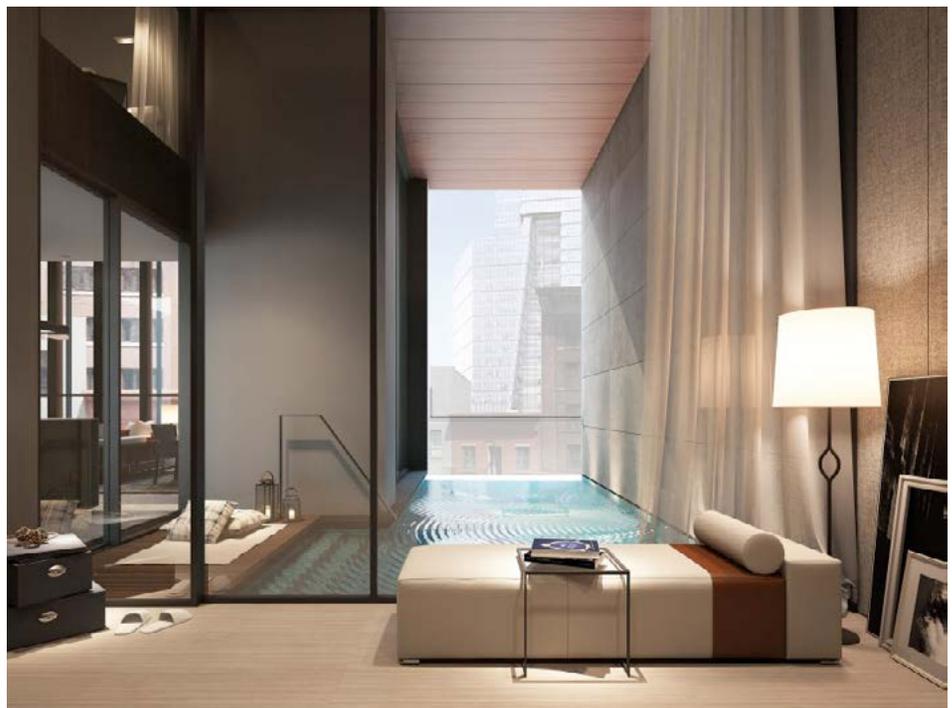
The rare high-profile architect who’s also a developer — as well as landscape, interior and product designer — the Singapore-born, Yale-educated Chan works around the world, building a resort in Bali, creating an installation for the Venice Biennale, teaching at Syracuse and designing a luxury residential tower in Kuala Lumpur.

He’s won awards from the likes of the Royal Institute of British Architects and had his work published in such illustrious outlets as *Architectural Record* and the *Architectural Review*.

Now, as he tells Alexa, he’s “bringing a contemporary Asian sensibility to design in New York,” making his US debut with West 29th Street’s Soori High Line, where 16 of the 31 units have private pools.

“It will be my vision fully realized,” Chan says of this building, which he’s both designing and co-developing. He’s also got 29th Street’s 12-unit 515 Highline under way, too, as well as a 38-story residence tower at 118 East 59th Street.

— A.S.



Soori High Line Photo: Courtesy of SCDA

NORMAN FOSTER, 80

Chairman and founder, Foster + Partners

Over the course of his five-decade (and counting) career, Pritzker Prize-winning architect and British knight Foster — who turned 80 on June 1 — has created signature contemporary designs that have come to define the cityscapes of metropolises around the globe and redefined the identities of significant cultural institutions like the British Museum and the Smithsonian.

For New York alone, he's dreamed up West 57th Street's triangular-framed Hearst Tower and the Bowery's nine-story, glass-fronted Sperone Westwater Gallery. Now he's making his NYC residential debut with a trio of towers: Zeckendorf's 42-story 50 United Nations Plaza arrives first, its three columns of bay windows overlooking the UN; it's to be followed by SR Capital and GTIS Partners' 551 West 21st Street, whose corner balconies provide sweeping city views; and finally, the slender, 61-story One Hundred, developed by Aby Rosen's RFR.

—A.S.



551 W. 21st St. Photo: Courtesy of Foster and Partners

ROBERT A. M. STERN, 76

Founder and senior partner, Robert A.M. Stern Architects

The architectural firm that bears his name altered the fabric of New York real estate back in 2000, when Stern turned his eye from individual houses to larger, multifamily commissions. The architect designed the Chatham, at 181 E. 65th St. (where he also resides), for the Related Companies; its limestone-and-brick Georgian facade added zeroes to the price of living on the UES, and made his addresses shorthand for inhabitants with grand yet unpretentious style. While 15 Central Park West remains his most iconic project to date, the dean of the Yale School of Architecture (yes, he also makes time to run an Ivy League school) has more tricks up his sleeve: Watch for the openings of future icons 520 Park Avenue, 20 East End Avenue and the Four Seasons Private Residences Downtown, at 30 Park Place, in the next two years. — H.M.



20 East End Ave. Photo: HAYES DAVIDSON

ANNABELLE SELLDORF, 54

Principal, Selldorf Architects

Celebrated for the impeccable precision of her designs, Selldorf has become the go-to architect for bijou, in-the-know cultural institutions, from the UES's Neue Galerie, carved out of an early-20th century Fifth Avenue mansion, to Hauser & Wirth's gallery in Chelsea's former Roxy nightclub. She's also designed the exteriors and interiors of prominent luxe residential buildings, including Noho's soon-to-finish 10 Bond Street, which contains just 11 loftlike units. Upcoming projects include 42 Crosby Street and 548 West 22nd Street, where she will add a 19-story tower to the existing four-floor structure. These buildings "make a real contribution to the urban fabric," Selldorf tells Alexa. "They shape the streetscape and neighborhood and are as much for the people who experience them from the outside as the residents on the inside." — A.S.



10 Bond Street. Photo: Familiar Control LLC

PARIS FORINO, 37

Founder, Paris Forino Interior Design

Envision elegant, old-world design touches, like black-and-white-striped marble flooring, stone moldings and herringbone-patterned wood, but executed with the clean, modern finishes coveted by today's buyers. Such careful juxtaposition of old and new has thrust Paris Forino into the spotlight as one of New York's most sought-after interior designers. "To come home to a serene, beautifully conceived and ordered home is important," she tells Alexa. "It affects our mood, our psyche — it affects our lives." She founded her eponymous firm in 2012, and has several major NYC commissions under her belt, including the glitzy interiors of 50 Clinton, 204 Forsyth and The Williamsberry. She's also making waves on new shores, handling the interiors at the Corner House building in Stockholm — it sold out in two weeks. — Z.K.



388 Berry Photo: PAPERFARMER